

[Date]

Dear School Board Member,

The Indiana Legislature took action in 2017 to expand student access to learning options through Chapter 16 of Indiana Code 20-30. As a result, students are eligible to enroll in the Indiana course access program. The course access program is meant to augment and extend any efforts schools have already undertaken. Local schools will benefit from access to online courses vetted for quality and aligned to Indiana Academic standards. This access might offer schools who have not yet explored offering online courses for core subjects an opportunity to experiment without going through a procurement process. Indiana is the fourteenth state in the U.S. to enable statewide choice at the course level through online learning options.

The majority of the course offerings in the Indiana Course Access portal (iCAP) will be virtual options. Online learning holds great promise as an instructional approach to expand and customize learning opportunities for students. However, it is substantially different from face-to-face instruction and usually works best when thoughtful planning supports individual enrollment decisions. We are in the process of developing policies to assist schools in accommodating these important changes. We are also developing guidelines and procedures to accommodate student/parent requests to take online courses.

We may deny student requests to take online courses for a number of reasons outlined in the legislation; however may not deny enrollment of an eligible student under subdivision (3) if the eligible student agrees to pay the cost of tuition for the applicable course access program course. If we deny a student's request for a course, we must notify the student's parent or emancipated eligible student of the parent's or student's right to appeal the school corporation's decision to the Indiana Department of Education.

Under section 10 of Chapter 16, the amount of the tuition payment for enrollment of an eligible student in a course access program course must be paid from the total amount of state tuition support that would otherwise be received by the school corporation on account of the student. At enrollment 50% of the enrollment fee will be paid to the provider. Payment in full of a tuition fee for a course access program course is based in part on student success in the course access program course.

I plan to recommend board approval of a new policy for online learning later this spring. In the meantime, please let me know if you have any questions about this new opportunity to expand online learning options for students.

Sincerely,

[Name] [Title]